

EPO - DG 1

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(44)

CLAIMS:

1. A water-soluble container (1) comprising one or more discrete chambers (30, 31) for containing product, wherein at least part (20, 27) of a wall (11, 25) of each chamber is adapted to dissolve before the remainder of the chamber to allow product to escape, characterised in that the at least part (20, 27) of the wall (11, 25) adapted to dissolve before the remainder of each chamber defines a releasable part (19, 26), such that when the at least part of the wall dissolves the releasable part is released undissolved.
2. A container (1) according to Claim 1, wherein the releasable part is a panel (19, 26) and the at least part of the wall at least partly surrounds the panel, such that the panel is released when the part of the wall has dissolved.
3. A container (201) according to any preceding claim, wherein the at least part of the wall (225) comprises one or more clip elements (220) adapted to retain the releasable part (225) until dissolved.
4. A container (1) according to any preceding claim, wherein the at least part (20, 27) of the wall is thinner than the remainder of the container.

5. A container (1) according to Claim 4, wherein the material thinning (20, 27) is arranged on the interior surface of the chamber wall.
6. A container (1) according to any preceding claim, wherein the container is formed by injection moulding.
7. A container (1) according to any preceding claim, wherein at least part of the material from which the container is formed is a polyvinyl alcohol.
8. A container (1) according to any preceding claim, wherein at least part of the material from which the container is formed is a polylactic acid.
9. A container (1) according to any proceeding claim, wherein at least part of the material from which the container is formed is starch-based.
10. A container (1) according to any preceding claim, wherein the whole of the container is formed from the same material.
11. A container (1) according to any preceding claim, wherein the container is flexible.
12. A container according to any preceding claim, comprising two or more chambers, wherein each chamber has a releasable part and each releasable part dissolves at

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different rates so that the products contained in the chambers are allowed to escape sequentially.